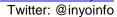


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News Release

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Ash Fire Update

The Ash fire that started on June 12th by lightning has been monitored for the past few days by fire personnel. There has been minimal activity and no further growth to the fire that remains around 110 acres.

There is still a chance smoke may be visible from Highway 395 north of Olancha. The fire is currently smoldering in a few spots which is making smoke production very light. No other significant activity has happened for the last three days.

Firefighters will continue to monitor the Ash fire to ensure the fire is confined.

The Inyo National Forest has a natural fire history that requires fire to ensure the health and resilience to the many ecosystems within the forest. Fire is beneficial by opening up the forest canopy to provide more sunlight and it reduces the competition for water, allowing vegetation to be more resistant to drought conditions.